

## Directions for Action Resolutions

The introduction and passage of action resolutions is one of the most exciting parts of Convention. In this portion, the Convention as a whole instructs the League president to take action with specific officials on a specific issue. Approved action resolutions are sent shortly after Convention.

An action resolution is important and powerful. It has the weight of the Convention behind it. Advocacy-oriented action resolutions may be directed to state and federal officials such as the governor, other state-wide elected officials, the legislature as a whole, a specific house or committee, agency directors and other appointed leaders.

### SCOPE:

- An action resolution should address a current issue that requires governmental action and is most effectively and appropriately addressed at the state level;
- An action resolution should be based on a state or national position; and
- An action resolution should relate to a current issue, a current piece of legislation or a timely and significant issue.

### PROCESS:

- To be considered by the delegates, resolutions should be submitted in writing and sent via email to Debbie Schmieding, Chair of the Action Resolutions Committee no later than Friday, May 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm <daschmieding@yahoo.com>
- Each resolution will be reviewed by the Action Resolutions Committee to ensure that it meets the criteria for scope, format, etc.
- The Action Resolutions Committee will select for presentation action resolutions that 1) advance League program, 2) address a current or timely and significant issue, and 3) meet the criteria for submission.
- Resolutions will be presented by the Action Resolutions Committee during Convention general session.
- The initiator of the action resolution must be present when the resolution is presented in order to answer questions posed by the delegates; if not present, the resolution will be excluded from further consideration.
- After its presentation and discussion, Convention delegates will vote on the resolution.
- If there is not time enough for all submitted action resolutions to be presented for consideration, the creators of the remaining resolutions can present them as Direction to the Board.

### FORMAT: An action resolution....

- Should be no more than one side of one page in length, 12 point font and sent as an attachment to an email (contact information above.) It should adhere to the following format and have all of the following sections completed:

Proposed By: List name of the League or Lobby Corps advocate proposing the resolution.

Supports the League Position or Principle: List the League position(s) or principle(s) that is relevant to the resolution. Be as specific as possible (see Ohio Agenda for Action, 2019-2021, and LWVUS Impact on Issues). Avoid summary positions and generalities such as “Education” or “Government.”  
Background Information: Provide a rationale that makes it clear why it is important for League to approve the resolution now. Spell out any acronyms when first used.

Body of Resolution: A resolution itself may have no more than four "Whereas" clauses. These are followed by one "Resolved" clause. The correct form and punctuation for a resolution are listed below. Spell out any acronyms when first used.

Example from 2020 (LWVUS)

### **RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR SUBMITTED BY**

**LWVMO, LWVAZ, LWVCA, LWVDE, LWVMA, LWVMN, LWVNM, LWVNY, LWVAL, LWVCT, LWVIA, LWVKS, LWVMD, LWVNJ, LWVOH, LWVSC, LWVTN, LWVUT, LWVOR, LWVFL**

1. **Whereas**, the killings of George Floyd<sup>i</sup> and countless other Black people have focused our nation’s attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism in law enforcement and the justice system; and,

2. **Whereas**, Black people and all historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement <sup>ii</sup>; and,

3. **Whereas**, delegates to the 2020 League of Women Voters (League) Convention are outraged by these injustices in law enforcement that unfairly target Black people and all people of color; and,

4. **Whereas**, the current crisis is a result of racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and all people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and,

5. **Whereas**, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism.<sup>iii</sup> We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge<sup>iv</sup> to be; and,

6. **Whereas**, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. We have openly acknowledged that our past has been marred by racism<sup>v</sup> and we will continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI) <sup>vi</sup>; and

7. **Whereas**, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights <sup>vii</sup>; therefore,

**We Resolve**, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt

actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and, that the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC)<sup>viii</sup> deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.